

Nominate a member of your team for the Saint Louis Chemical Science & Technology Award!

first published 29 November 2021

The Saint Louis Chemical Science & Technology Award is presented to a chemist (scientist) in the St. Louis area who has demonstrated a high degree of professionalism and scientific contribution. Criteria used to judge the award include technical proficiency, presentations, coaching/teamwork, and additional professional activities. The award consists of a plaque, a \$1,000 honorarium, and dinner for the awardee and a guest at the annual Recognition Night. Nominations are due by Feb 1st, 2022. You can find all the details on eligibility, nominating a candidate, and recent winners on the [award page](#).

To submit a nomination, email the Chemical Science and Technology Award Coordinator, Rui Tang, at rtang@wustl.edu or phone 314.747.8287. To be eligible, the nominee should have an Associate, Bachelor, or Masters Degree in chemistry or a chemistry-related curriculum. In addition, the nominee need not be a St Louis Section-ACS member to be eligible.

The 2nd annual (last? please?) Virtual Continuity Dinner

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After consulting with members of the Board, it was decided that once again the annual Continuity Dinner that normally coincides with the December Board of Directors meeting will be online.

Regular attendees will receive an invitation a few days in advance of the scheduled December 9th meet, and RSVPers will get a link to the Zoom room on the day of. If you're not a regular attendee but wish to attend, please email chair@stlacs.org, and you'll get your link.

There will still be some special events to liven up the usually staid tenor of regular Board meetings:

- announcement of the **Distinguished Service Award** for exceptional contributions to the Section
- the **Henry Godt Memorial Lecture**, a light-hearted year-in-review by a secret speaker known only to the Chair and him/her/them/sel{f}ives}
- the passing of the book and gavel from outgoing Chair **Samina Azad** to incoming Chair **Cynthia Chapple**

The business part of the December meeting is usually kept brief, too, so you won't be trapped. Come join the fun, and BYOBeverage to the comfortable spot in front of your computer monitor.



Local section election results are in!

first published 30 November 2021

The Secretary is happy to report the election results for the 2022 officers of our St. Louis Section. Congratulations to the following members.

Chair-Elect	Tabbatha Bohac
Secretary	Henry Rohrs
Treasurer	Jeff Cornelius
Councilor	Lisa Balbes
Alternate Councilor	Brent Znosko
Director	John-Stephen Taylor
Director	Mikhail Berezin
Director	Pamela Morrison

Thank you for participating in the election and all the best in 2022.

The Night to Make Crystals...

first published 30 November 2021

Reader, have we got a treat for you! Earlier this year, **Iain Patterson**, a technician in the chemistry teaching lab at the [University of St. Andrews](#) — yes, that one in Scotland, founded 1413 C.E. — reached out to your intrepid editors. He asked if he could obtain permission to circulate more widely a fondly remembered poem that was posted in his lab, a tear-out from the December 1978 edition of the *Chemical Bond*.

"Wha?," you might well exclaim, as we did.

With foresight that we might not be able to lay our hands on a 33-year-old newsletter, Iain shared a photo of the page, taken before the sun- and chemical-aged original crumbled away. And so, in the spirit of the winter holidays, the St. Louis section is delighted to republish John F. Hansen's "The Night to Make Crystals". And grant Iain permission to retweet it (or whatever) with attribution.

The Night to Make Crystals

by John F. Hansen
from *The Chemical Bond*
St. Louis Section A.C.S.
December, 1978

'Twas the night to make crystals, and all through the hood,
Compounds were reacting; I'd hoped that they would.
The hood door I'd closed with the greatest of care,
To keep noxious vapors from fouling the air.
The reflux condenser was hooked to the tap,
And the high vacuum pump had a freshly filled trap.

I patiently waited to finish my task,
While boiling chips merrily danced in the flask.
Then up from the pump there arose such a great clatter,
That I sprang from my chair to see what was the matter.
Away to the fume hood! Up with the door!
And half of my product foamed out on the floor.

Then what to my watering eyes should appear,
But a viscous black oil which had once been so clear.
I turned the pump off in a terrible rush,
And the oil that sucked back filled the line up with mush.
The ether boiled out of the flask with a splash,
And hitting the mantle went up with a flash.

My nose turned quite ruddy, my eyebrows went bare,
The blast had singed off nearly half of my hair.
I shut the hood door with a violent wrench,
As acid burned holes in the floor and the bench.
I flushed it with water, and to my dismay,
Found sodium hydride had spilled in the fray.

And then ere the fire got way out of hand,
I managed to quench it with buckets of sand.
With aqueous base I diluted the crud,
Then shoveled up seven big buckets of mud.
I extracted the slurry again and again,
With ether and then with dichloromethane.

Chromatographic techniques were applied
Several times 'til the product had been purified.
I finally viewed with a satisfied smile,
One half of a gram in a shiny new vial
I mailed the yield report to my boss,
Ninety percent (allowing for loss).

"Good work," said the boss in the answering mail,
"Use same conditions on preparative scale."

Meeting & Seminars

Board of Directors

St Louis Section-ACS Board of Directors meets the second Thursday of each month over Zoom for the foreseeable future

Date: Dec 9 ([via Zoom](#))

Join internet meeting at 6:00 pm for social/chit-chat
Business meeting begins at 6:30 pm

Future meetings: The next meetings are January 13th and February 10th

Maryville University

Seminars are approximately once a month on Thursdays, 4-5 pm. Details are available on the university's [seminar page](#). All seminars are free and open to the public. Contact [Jason Telford](#) for more information.

Saint Louis University

Seminars are generally on Fridays at 12 noon in Carlo Auditorium, Tegeler Hall, unless noted otherwise. Refreshments follow. For the most up-to-date information, refer to the department's [home page](#) and follow the link to the Seminar Schedule.

University of Health Sciences & Pharmacy in St. Louis

The Center for Clinical Pharmacology hosts a monthly seminar series in ARB 212 unless otherwise noted. For the most up to date information refer to the center's [seminar page](#) or contact [Jodi Maslin](#).

University of Missouri-St Louis

Mondays at 4 pm in 451 Benton Hall, unless otherwise specified. Refreshments 15 minutes prior to seminar time. For timely information on visiting seminar speakers, contact the Chemistry Department, 314.516.5311, or visit the [seminar schedule](#). The department has additional seminar series which are also accessible from this page.

Washington University

Seminars are in McMillen 311 at 4 pm unless otherwise noted. For information, consult the departmental [events page](#). Related seminars, including endowed seminar series and the WU med school biochemistry series, are linked here as well.

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About the Chemical Bond

The *Chemical Bond* is published at www.stlacs.org January through May and September through December by the St Louis Section-American Chemical Society. If you would like to receive email notification when each issue is posted, you can subscribe to our email list and join the "Chemical Bond reminders" group.

Correspondence, letters to the editor, etc., should be emailed to editor@stlacs.org or mailed % St Louis Section-ACS, PO Box 410192, Saint Louis, MO 63141-0192.

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